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SUBJECT	"The Man With One Red Shoe"		

POLLY DEAN: It is obviously a spoof. It is obviously a takeoff.

The central plot is so absurd that for anyone to give any credibility to it I think would be very unusual.

SCOTT SIMON: Polly Dean says there's no way anybody could believe this espionage film was anything but satire, and she ought to know. Ms. Dean is an ex-CIA case officer, or agent, with 12 years service. Ms. Dean and another former CIA agent, Penny Engle, are technical advisers for a new film, "The Man With One Red Shoe," that's now shooting here in Washington.

They were recruited by another ex-CIA case officer, Robert Cort, who's begun a second career as a producer at 20th Century Fox.

The assignment for Dean and Engle is to help actress Lori Singer better understand the actual work of being a female spy.

Dean, who did her CIA work primarily in Africa, says that the undercover operations there were not always as glamorous or sophisticated as you may expect.

DEAN: Because of the countries in which I worked, which were not considered terribly hostile, we did not have to resort to technical devices such as hidden cameras, microdots, and so forth. I've never had to use any of that.

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SIMON: You two are technical advisers on a movie that's going to show the zanny, light-hearted, sort of lame-brained side of espionage work as it's carried out by the Central Intelligence Agency.

DEAN: Right.

SIMON: [Laughs]. I thought I was overstating it.

DEAN: Well, not as portrayed in the movie. Penny and I had a little difficulty at first in trying to point out that this was not realistic, whatever issue was being discussed at the moment, or whatever prop was being used. But we all came to the agreement very quickly that we would all assume that the CIA operated as it is portrayed in the movie and then went from there and tried -- Penny and I tried to plug in what we hoped would be contributing comments to help make it more realistic.

SIMON: Well, did anything ever happen to you in the CIA, or did you ever witness, observe or hear about anything happening in the CIA that might be a little bit more comfortable on "The Lucy Show" than it would be in -- in secret agent work?

DEAN: For humor -- my goodness, I've never given much thought to that. I -- off the top of my head, no. And in fact, working with Lori Singer, who is portraying the CIA case officer in this film, she was more concerned as to whether either of us had had experiences that were of a more dangerous nature where we felt threatened.

SIMON: Polly Dean and Penny Engle both tell of the times when their work with the CIA was dangerous, but they say that plenty of it was just simply routine or even dull.

The two have been careful not to mention any specific details in their stories so as not to compromise national security.

Polly Dean does say, though, that the CIA will probably laugh when the film is released next summer. We asked if in all those years of working in what's often known as "The Company" she'd ever thought of herself as a spy, and she said no.

DEAN: You become so ingrained in the thinking that you are -- an embassy secretary, or whatever your cover story is --and you learn very quickly never to use the three letters -- C-I-A -- that it is totally second nature to you.

SIMON: Well, are you deceiving yourself, too, as well as those around you then?

DEAN: I wonder if some people are. [Laughs]. I really do. I do think I did, because that's one of the reasons I left.

SIMON: Former CIA officer and present film consultant, Polly Dean.